

and is the form of coastal Natal north to Beira in Mozambique and inland to south-eastern Rhodesia. The populations of East Africa north of this new form must be known as *E. s. occipitalis*. They are identical with the nominate form in colour but have shorter tails, 40-43.5 mm. against 45-51.5 mm. Although this form is very slightly differentiated, it seems clear that it is not actually in contact with the nominate form.

Additional material does not confirm *E. s. extrema* White which must be placed as a synonym of *pulchra*.

Sylvietta virens Cassin

The range of the nominate form extends further south into north-east Angola. The recently described *S. v. meridionalis* Ripley & Heinrich (1966, Postilla, no. 95, p. 20. Calulo, Cuanza Sul, Angola) merely continues the characters of *S. v. tando* of north-west Angola by being still whiter on the abdomen and lighter reddish-brown on the throat and chest. The describers remark that *tando* represents an intergrade and would have been better not named. The recognition of how many segments of a cline to name is arbitrary and hence so too is formal recognition of this new form.

Parisoma subcaeruleum (Vieillot)

In south-west Angola the inland birds agree best with *cinerascens* and the small and pale *ansorgei* should be limited to the coastal lowlands north to Benguella.

Parisoma layardi Hartlaub

Examination of a good series confirms the validity of the pale *aridicola* Winterbottom but I cannot distinguish *P. l. subsolana* Clancey (1963, Durban Mus. Nov. 6, p. 253. Molteno, eastern Cape Province) from *aridicola*.

Partial albinism in *Vanellus armatus*

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Tree (*Ostrich* 1966 p. 238) mentions a partially albino Blacksmith Plover *Vanellus armatus* (Burchell) in the collection of the National Museum, Bulawayo. Through the courtesy of the Curator and of the Ornithologist there, Mr. M. P. Stuart Irwin, I was recently able to examine this specimen which proved to be more interesting than Tree had suggested. It is unsexed; for reasons to be given below it is probably immature; it was collected in February, 1959 on the Sabi River at Chisumbanje in Rhodesia (20° 50' S: 32° 15' E). As in *Pycnonotus barbatus* (Desfontaines) Brooke *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 1965: 114-115) the coloured parts of the plumage are apparently produced by the complementary actions of two melanins with separate genetic controls. In this specimen the dominant or principal melanin is missing. As a result the black parts of the plumage are deep brown, the grey parts are a faint pinkish-brown and the white parts remain white. The spurs are short suggesting immaturity and colourless horn instead of black. There are no statements of colour of the soft parts on the label. The bill now appears as dark brown instead of black as in a normal specimen and the legs are dark reddish-brown instead of black. The colour of the iris is unknown.

Tree (*op. cit.*) also mentions a partially albino Black-crowned Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* L. This seems to me to be an immature bird in normal plumage matched by other specimens in the collection.